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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 02 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Reservoir Avenue Sewage Pumping Station

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Reservoir Avenue & Pontiac Avenue

n/a not for publication

city, town Providence

n/a vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Providence code 007

zip code 02905

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Providence, 1636-present (Sewage Treatment, 1895-1935)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*Frank C. Williams*  
Signature of certifying official

*22 Mar 1988*  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

*Beth Savage*

*1-13-89*

*Jor* Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Public Works

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Public Works

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:  
Georgian Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

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roof asphaltother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Reservoir Avenue Sewage Pumping Station is situated on the south side of the intersection of Reservoir and Pontiac Avenues, very near the southern city limit, in an areas of southwest Providence known as the "Reservoir Section" or "Triangle". Erected in 1931, the building consists of a poured concrete substructure containing wet and dry wells, and a hipped-roofed superstructure with pressed red brick exterior. Natural illumination is provided by narrow horizontal windows set high in the walls below solid-arched heads. Metal doors are located in the east and north elevations.

The east door provided access to the pump room. Here, two sewage pumps are located in the subterranean dry well. The control room above has interior walls of yellow glazed brick, and metal doors in the floor, inset with glass block, provide both views and access to the pumps. The south door opens into the wet well, which occupies approximately two-thirds of the building. Two manually-operated gate valves near the west wall control flow of sewage into two parallel concrete channels in the wet well. Near the east end is a similar pair of valves that control the flow from each channel to the pumps.

Sewage is pumped 300-400 feet from Reservoir Avenue east to a gravity conduit in Rutherglen Avenue. This line conveys the sewage to the South Providence interceptor, by which is carried to treatment at Fields Point. Although the exterior of the structure is in fairly good condition, the interior, particularly the wet well, exhibits deterioration and need for rehabilitation.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance  
1931-1935

Significant Dates  
1931

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Office of City Engineer, Providence

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Reservoir Avenue Sewage Pumping Station is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development under Criterion A, for its association with the historical development of sewage processing and treatment facilities in Providence. It represents a property type associated with the historic contexts Historic and Architectural Resources of Providence, 1636-present (The Making of a Metropolis, 1865-1945; Public Works and Utilities: Sewage Treatment, 1895-1935). This property type consists of buildings and structures designed and built to function in the processing and treatment of sewage, constructed under City auspices between 1895 and 1935. The Reservoir Avenue Pumping Station conforms to this property type definition, having been built in 1931 under City Engineer S. Frank Nolan to facilitate the conveyance of sewage from a low-lying area of the city to the treatment plant at Fields Point.

Authorization for construction of the pump station was obtained through a City Council resolution in April, 1931. The "triangle" it was intended to service lay immediately adjacent to the east, consisting of approximately 50 acres located between Reservoir Ave., Pontiac Ave., and what is now Route 10. This area, lying south of Mashpaug Pond, was included in Providence's reannexation of part of Cranston in 1868. Located at the extreme south edge of the city, the "triangle" was apparently not extensively populated until the 20th century. That it had been by the end of the 1920's is indicated by the decision to build a pump station to service the area. Reservoir Avenue Pumping Station is thus historically and functionally associated with Providence's sewage treatment system. Its construction, like that of the earlier (1913) Washington Park pump station, illustrates the continued expansion of the system in response to the residential and industrial expansion of the city in the early decades of the 20th century.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Department of Public Works, Providence. Annual Report for 1931.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Narragansett Bay Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 19 297880 4628830  
 Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The area included conforms to the present boundaries of the lot on which the Reservoir Avenue Pumping Station is located.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

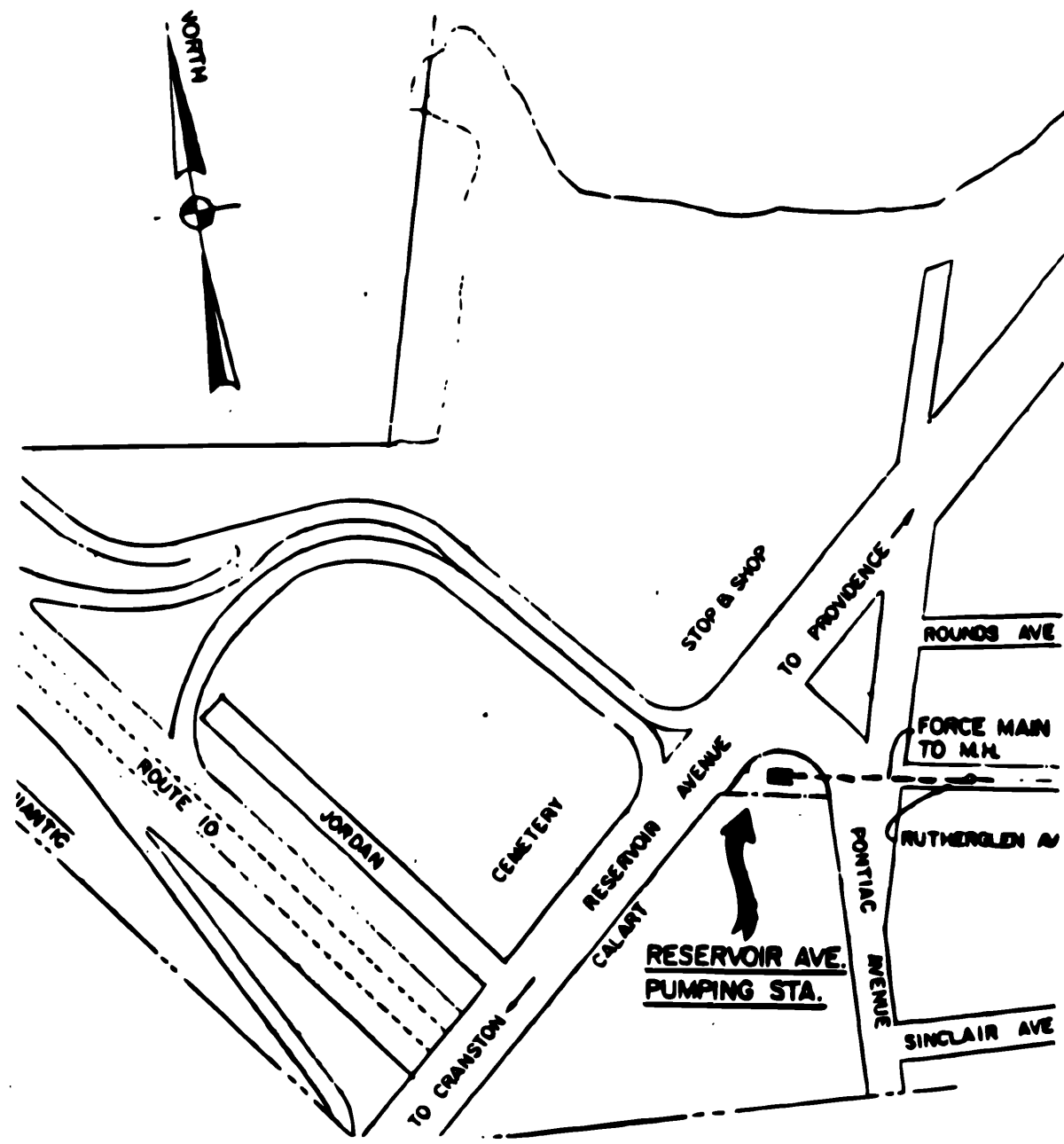
The boundaries encompass all significant features and do not exclude any features that contribute to the importance of the resource.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Martha H. Bowers, Architectural Historian  
 organization Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. date Sept. 1987  
 street & number 20 William Street telephone 617-235-5874  
 city or town Wellesley state MA zip code 02181

# RESERVOIR AVENUE PUMPING STATION



**LOCATION PLAN**  
NOT TO SCALE

Source: Narragansett Bay Commission